



**Testimony by the Connecticut State Medical Society**

**House Bill 5147**

**An Act Concerning Physician Assistants and The Palliative Use of Marijuana**

**General Law Committee**

**February 22, 2022**

Senator Maroney, Representative D'Agostino, and distinguished members of the General Law Committee, on behalf of the physicians and physicians in training of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS), thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony to you today on House Bill 5147, An Act Concerning Physician Assistants and the Palliative Use of Marijuana.

House Bill 5147 seeks to the Connecticut General Statutes to grant physician assistants the legal authority to issue certificates for the use of marijuana for palliative purposes. Physicians and APRNs presently have this authority. The change embodied in HB 5147 represents an expansion of the scope of PAs. The General Assembly has established a formal process for the submission and review of requests for health professionals seeking to revise or alter existing scopes of practices. Under Public Act 11-209, committees of appropriate and impacted professionals would be assembled under the direction of the Connecticut Department of Health (DPH). The scope committee process provides an opportunity for all stakeholders to address the broader impact of the scope expansion request, providing valuable input the legislature might otherwise not receive.

CSMS would hope that the scope of review process that was thoughtfully crafted and established by this General Assembly would be followed for this scope expansion request. The scope of review process ensures that scope expansion decisions are made based on concrete and accurate data after a thoroughly vetted review process. To circumvent that process establishes a precedent and a pathway potentially leading to scope of practice expansion that jeopardizes the health and safety of Connecticut's residents.